

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Reports of Rinderpest in East Germany	DATE DISTR.	12 July 1955 25X1
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] the cattle at [redacted] farms had shown signs of unknown disease in January. While the animals' outer appearance did not change, the milk yield had gradually become less and less and finally stopped after two weeks. The district veterinarian diagnosed "bone softening" and prescribed calcium. The animals nevertheless continued to deteriorate and had to be slaughtered. The carcasses were confiscated and sent for examination. The result of the examination was never made known to the owners. 25X1
2. In late February [redacted] both in Somsdorf and Borthen (N51/F28) several cattle stocks had been affected by a bloody diarrhea which resulted in complete emaciation of the affected animals. One Somsdorf farmer had to slaughter his entire herd. The carcasses were transferred to the disposal yard. The district veterinarian diagnosed the disease in both villages as rinderpest. 25X1
3. [redacted] rinderpest had broken out at a Seebenisch farm in October 1954. All 15 animals suffered from diarrhea and they had to be killed and the carcasses transferred to the disposal yard. In November 1954, cattle in Klein-Zschocher also became affected by the disease, but only one animal had to be killed. In both cases, rinderpest was diagnosed. This diagnosis was confirmed by findings of the Leipzig Bacteriological Institute. 25X1
4. [redacted] rinderpest broke out in Heeren in January. All traffic to this locality was interrupted until end of February 1955. 25X1
5. [redacted] rinderpest flared up in early February in individual farms at Falkenberg, Neukirchen, Lichterfelde, and Pollitz in Kreis Seehausen. In Falkenberg, the number of cattle was reduced from 21 to 18, in Neukirchen from 30 to 17, 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

in Lichterfelde from 12 to 9, and in Pollitz from 200 to 70 or 80. Around 5/6 February 1955, Soviet and German veterinarians were investigating the Pollitz outbreak. The only countermeasure taken was the quarantine of the affected farms. No emergency slaughterings were performed since the meat of the affected animals was declared inedible.

6. [redacted] rinderpest broke out in Berbisdorf near Dresden in January. The disease was said to have been transmitted by bulls. 25X1
7. [redacted] rinderpest and hog cholera (Schweinpest) broke out in Gersdorf in early October 1954. Treatment was given by German veterinarians. 25X1
8. [redacted] outbreak of rinderpest at a Goelsdorf farm in late November or early December. One cow was reported dead. Other communities in the vicinity of Goelsdorf were also affected. As a countermeasure, all commerce with the affected localities was prohibited and even the mail service was interrupted. German veterinarians treated the animals with injections, and disinfectants were sprayed. 25X1
9. [redacted] Kreis Nauen became infected with rinderpest. Attempts were made to avoid the use of the name rinderpest in order not to cause concern to the population. [redacted] outbreak of the disease in Bezirk Potsdam. 25X1
10. On 28 February 1955, it was observed at the Brandenburg slaughter-house that men, animals, and vehicles entering the compound passed through a basin filled 35 cm. high with a disinfectant. 25X1
11. Prior to late February, no cases of rinderpest were observed in the Neustrelitz Kreis. Increased incidence of fowl and hog cholera was reported. 25X1
12. On 22 February 1955, [redacted] Sangerhausen, Thuringia, [redacted] outbreak of rinderpest in that area. 25X1
13. In late February 1955, it was stated that no rinderpest had occurred in the Rudolstadt Kreis, at least if one could judge by the fact that no directives on protective measures were published. 25X1
14. No reports on the outbreak of rinderpest were received from the Gera area until late February 1955. No veterinarian directives have been issued. 25X1
1. [redacted] Comment: Bellingen in East Germany is in Bezirk Magdeburg. 25X1

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